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LETTER DATED 20 MARCH 1993 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF
THE PERMANENT MISSION OF YUGOSLAVIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS
ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit, enclosed herewith, the statement of the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia concerning the alleged violations of Security Council resolution 781 (1992).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dragomir DJOKIC
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

Annex

Statement of the Government of the Federal Republic of
Yugoslavia concerning the alleged violations of
Security Council resolution 781 (1992)

The Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia expresses its concern over the alleged combat use of aircraft in eastern Bosnia on 13 March 1993 and the violation of Security Council resolution 781 (1992). It is surprising that the statement adopted by the Security Council on that occasion demands from the Serbian side in Bosnia and Herzegovina to provide immediate explanation of the aforementioned violations of resolution 781 (1992) - thus being a priori taken as a perpetrator - and that the Secretary-General has been requested to "ensure that an investigation is made of the reported possible use of the territory of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia ... to launch air attacks against the territory of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina".

Therefore, in the interest of truth, the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia finds it necessary to point out the following facts:

It is well known that the highest officials of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia proposed that military observers be deployed at the airfields in its territory. Sensitive and unusual as this measure might be, it was advanced to dispel false and unscrupulous accusations of the alleged use of the Yugoslav Air Force in the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina. As confirmed by United Nations documents, none of 465 violations of the no-fly zone were made by the aircraft of the Yugoslav Air Force. The one-sided accusation that Yugoslavia has violated the no-fly zone and thus undermined the peace process is astonishing at a time when agreements are in sight to end the war and find a peaceful and just solution to the problems in former Bosnia and Herzegovina, in which Yugoslavia is vitally interested.

Due to such a one-sided approach in evaluating this event, the Muslim and Croatian side had been forthwith freed of any responsibility. At the same, time, the fact that the Muslim side has on a number of occasions orchestrated horrendous crimes targeting civilians in the territory under its control, particularly in Sarajevo, and blamed the Serbs, has been completely ignored. That has invariably been the case when important agreements to end the war were to be reached. The description of aircraft and the targets, close to the border with the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, indicate that we are dealing with a provocation and a premeditated fraud whose purpose is to exert pressure, in this moment, on the Security Council.

Airplanes and helicopters of the Air Forces of the Army of Yugoslavia have not violated the airspace of Bosnia and Herzegovina since the no-fly zone came into effect, not even for humanitarian flights to evacuate the sick and wounded members of the Army of the Serbian Republic and the Republic of Serb Krajina, especially after Croatia's aggression against the territory under United Nations protection.

On the day of alleged combat use of aircraft in eastern Bosnia, the airplanes of the Air Force did not violate the airspace of Bosnia and

Herzegovina. That has been unambiguously confirmed by the United Nations observers deployed at airfields in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. We have no reason to believe that they have indicated otherwise in the official reports or that those have been tampered with.

Air Force and Anti-Aircraft Defence of the Army of Yugoslavia did not register the violation of the airspace of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia at the said time by the aircraft that allegedly left in the direction of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. Likewise, no aircraft activities have been registered in the airspace of eastern Bosnia at the time and place quoted in the United Nations documents.

On this occasion as well, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia reaffirms its readiness strictly to abide by the provisions of Security Council resolution 781 (1992), as has been the case so far, and desist from any act that may impede the search of a just solution and establishment of a lasting peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina and in the territory of the former Yugoslavia as a whole. To that end, we stand ready to undertake further measures with a view to establishing the truth and thoroughly investigating this particular incident.
